

Southwestern from page 1C

hand-dyed-fabric trio — a blouse, long skirt, and triangular scarf to wear at neck or hip, designed by a California artist. — was purchased in Sedona. A white crochet top from Sanibel, Fla., is worn over a white tank top and paired with white jeans.

Husband Gary likes all her Southwestern attire and prefers dressing that way himself. "I enjoy the casual and the Southwestern look. That part suits me great," he said. "After 30 years 'dressing,' I'll be glad to get out of a suit and tie."

Diane Carson's mother, Alma Michalaki, 88, who lives with them, will be making the move with her daughter and son-in-law.

In the Sedona house, there's only one closet, but Diane Carson hopes to change that with some kind of built-in. Gary may be able to help out. He designed the interiors of the closets in their Farmington Hills home so he already has an aptitude for that kind of work.

Off the Cuff is an occasional feature that focuses on ordinary people with extraordinary flair for fashion. If you know an Observer & Eccentric area resident — man, woman or child — with a distinctive clothing sense, be it classic, trendy, homespun or outrageous, give us a call at 644-1100, Ext. 243.



Eye opener: White crochet top goes over white tank and is paired with white jeans.

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Roeper from page 1C

developing a conflict about the two worlds she was involved in — the wealthy suburb and the city where she was one of the few black students and the city whose culture included her own black heritage.

She dropped out of Roeper to return to her roots, finishing high school at Cass Technical High School in Detroit, which had a strong dance program.

"Roeper was a wonderfully stimulating and supportive environment," she stressed. "I just felt unbalanced. Perhaps I started too early and stayed too long. I came from a comfortable, closely knit, middle-class family from Detroit." At Roeper, she found herself with "bright students who came from backgrounds of wealth, power and privilege. Both worlds were wonderful. It was just merg-

ing them together. There was a cultural thrust I couldn't fulfill at Roeper."

In full throttle

Around that time, she had started wearing African turbans and studying Swahili. "I was in full throttle," she said, with a laugh. "My family still teases me about those days. Now, I've be-

come a conservative Republican. Everything comes full circle."

Just as the interview was drawing to a close, Taylor's husband, Lonnie, a lawyer and chief lobbyist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, arrived from their home in McLean, Va., with their two children, Lonnie Paul, 6, and Mary Elizabeth, 3. On the book tour, "I try to join her as much as possible," he said.

74-year-old woman game for volleyball

PRIME TIME Sometimes she's the only woman, sometimes she's the oldest player, but Marge Clark, 74, of Farmington Hills, is always ready to play volleyball wherever there's a game going.

"I don't play on Thursday or the weekends, but if I could find a game near me for now, I'd be there. I spend all my gasoline running to volleyball games," Clark said.

She is the only woman regularly playing with the senior men at the Birmingham Area Senior Center. "I guess I'm the only one who can put up with those guys. They can't run me off. I can outrun a lot of people half my age," Clark said. Although the men tend to blame her for everything that goes wrong in the game, she doesn't mind being teased by the men, and when someone makes a mistake she hollers, "Blame Marge!" Clark also plays on seniors

teams in Northville, Plymouth and, when she has time, in Livonia.

On Monday and Wednesday nights she plays at Dunkel Junior High School in Farmington with a young mixed-doubles team.

"And I mean they are young. I could be a grandmother to most of them. I like to play with a good team, and I wear knee pads so I can get down on my knees to get the shots if necessary," Clark explained.

Most of the older groups do not try to return shots by getting down on their knees, Clark said, laughingly — for most of them it would take too long to get up again.

Clark began playing volleyball at age 50. Her supervisor at the Farmington school bus garage started teaching volleyball to the bus drivers. They played at Farmington High School.

"It's good exercise. It's a sport I really like. I like good competition, but volleyball can be boring if the other people don't know how to play. And for some reason, older people think they can just start playing without knowing

any of the rules," Clark said.

She retired from school-bus driving six years ago after 17 years as a driver. She drove all ages from kindergarten to high school. High schoolers are her favorite because she could talk to them.

"I enjoyed it a lot, but driving is a big responsibility. You have 65 kids in the back, all talking at once. There is no such thing as a quiet bus. I gave up my license when I retired. But I help with the kids in wheelchairs on the orthopedic buses. I load and unload and chain down the wheelchairs. One of these days I'm really going to retire," she said.

Clark has never played any other sport than volleyball, although she rides her bicycle regularly. She used to ride a Honda motorcycle but gave that up a few years back because of the road traffic, "I still miss riding."

But not much stops Marge Clark. She burned her leg climbing into her usual big 16-wheel truck, and when the doctor treat-

ed the second degree burn for infection, he told her not to play volleyball for a while.

"I told him, no way. I was going to play anyway, and that was the end of the conversation," she said.

Over the years she has broken three fingers and had too many black and blue spots to count, but she says philosophically, "If you play competitively you are going to get hurt once in a while. And that's OK."

Clark plans to continue playing at least until she is 80 years old wherever she can find a game. She doesn't play on grass because of the danger of injury, but she thinks she would like to try sand volleyball. "There are some kids who play in the sand at the school in the summer. I think I'll go down and maybe they'll let me in the game," Clark said.

So if you know of a good game not too far away from Farmington Hills, and you need a good player, Marge Clark is your woman.

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